

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6848

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10477

EXDIS

FOR DEPARTMENT AND NSC ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG CH US HK

SUBJ: PROPOSED FLUOR REFINERY COMPLEX

REF: STATE 200774

1. LAST WEEK FLUOR GROUP FILLED ME IN ON TWO MEETINGS THEY HAD WITH GOVERNOR MACLEHOSE. THE FIRST WAS ON AUGUST 27 AND WAS FULL DRESS AFFAIR WITH GOVERNOR SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL HKG OFFICIALS AND ATTENDED BY FOUR-MAN FLUOR GROUP PLUS LOCAL SOLICITOR. GOVERNOR WAS DESCRIBED AS STIFF AND COOL (HE DOES THIS VERY WELL) LEADING THE FLUOR PEOPLE TO DESCRIBE THE GENESIS OF THE PROJECT, THROUGH MANY TECHNICAL DETAILS FINALLY TO ANSWERING WHAT CLEARLY WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO HIM CONCERNING THE EXACT IDENTIFICATION OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE FRONT GROUP AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL ROLES. GOVERNOR CRISPLY STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH OF COURSE PROJECT WAS OF GREAT VALUE TO HONG KONG, LAND USE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PROPOSAL WERE SO IMMENSE THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. FLUOR TOOK THIS TO MEAN UNQUESTIONABLY THAT EXCO WOULD HAVE TO FIND FROM GROUPS ACCEPTABLE.

2. GOVERNOR FOLLOWED THIS UP WITH MORE FRIENDLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 3 WITH FLUOR PROJECT CHIEF EWERT AND  
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LOCAL SOLICITOR ONLY. HE STRESSED THAT PRIOR TO ANY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROJECT, EVEN OF THE FEASIBILITY  
STUDY OR INDEED ANY PUBLICITY AT ALL, HKG  
WOULD HAVE BE SATISFIED ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS.  
APPROVAL OF HKG COULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.  
GOVERNOR LATER CALLED EWERT ASIDE AND TOLD HIM FOR HIS  
INFO ALONE WHO THEN PASSED IT ON TO ME ALONE THAT  
HENRY FOK WAS FOCAL POINT OF HIS CONCERNS.

3. STATE OF PLAY IS NOW MORE OR LESS AS FOLLOWS:  
FLUOR GROUP HAS GONE BACK TO THE UNITED STATES HAVING SENT  
THREE SCENARIOS UP TO PEKING ALONG WITH PREVIOUSLY  
DESCRIBED TECHNICAL MATERIAL. PRC HAS NOT HINTED AT  
A REPLY OR EVEN FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF  
THE PROPOSAL. MOST THEY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO GIVE  
IS A RECEIPT FOR THE VOLUMES OF TECHNICAL MATERIAL  
THEY HANDED TO LI P'EI-CH'U OR ANOTHER MIDDLE-MAN.  
MEANWHILE, FLUOR PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY THINK THERE IS  
NO POINT IN DOING ANYTHING ABOUT HENRY FOK AND BRITISH  
OBJECTIONS TO HIM UNTIL GENUINE PRC INTEREST IN THE  
PROPOSAL CAN BE VERIFIED. AT THAT TIME MEANS OF  
DROPPING FOK MIGHT BECOME APPARENT BUT THEY CLAIM  
HE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE GAME AS IT IS PLAYED NOW (HOOSE  
QUITE NATURALLY BLOWS STRONGEST ON THIS SCORE  
SINCE FOK AND OTHER LIKE HIM ARE ESSENTIAL TO HOOSE'S  
MIDDLE-MAN ROLE).

4. BIO MATERIAL ON HENRY FOK AND LI P'EI-CH'U IS  
STILL BEING PREPARED AND SHOULD BE IN NEXT POUCH TO  
EA/PRCM.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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